

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 32-33, 36, and 40-41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 26-31, 33-35, 37-39, and 42-44 are pending in the application. Claims 26, 37, and 43-44 are independent. Claims 26, 32, and 37 have been amended. Claims 1-25, 32, 36, and 40-41 have been canceled. Claims 43-44 have been added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Drawings as failing to include most of the reference numbers mentioned in the Specification. In the present Response, Applicants have provided annotated sheets and replacement sheets for Figures 1-4 and 5a-5b that include the reference numbers mentioned in the Specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the objection.

Objection to Claim 17

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 17 as failing to recite the word “to” between the words “parallel” and the first circuit board.” In the present Response, Applicants have canceled claim 17 to render the Examiner’s objection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the objection.

Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-14, and 16-25 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-14, and 16-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,850,044 to Block et al. (“Block”). A claim is anticipated only if each and every element of the claim is found in a reference. (M.P.E.P. § 2131 *citing Verdegaa Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Id. citing Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226,1236 (Fed. Cir. 1989)). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Although Applicants believe that claims 1-2, 4-14, and 16-25 are patentable as written, claims 1-2, 4-14, and 16-25 have been canceled. Such cancellation renders the rejection of them moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejections.

Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-11, 14, 16-17, 19-25, 37-39, and 42

Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-11, 14, 16-17, 19-25, 37-39, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,204,866 to Block et al. ("Block II"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Although Applicants believe that claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-11, 14, 16-17, and 19-25 are patentable as written, claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-11, 14, 16-17, and 19-25 have been canceled. Such cancellation renders the rejection of them moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejections.

The Examiner indicated that claim 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 37 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 40. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 37 should now be patentable and in condition for allowance. Claims 38-39 and 42 properly depend from claim 37 and therefore should be patentable and in condition for allowance as well.

Rejection of Claims 3 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Block. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, an Examiner must show that there is some suggestion or motivation to modify a reference to arrive at the claimed invention. (MPEP §2143.) The suggestion or motivation to modify reference teachings must be found in the references relied upon (MPEP §2143.01). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Although Applicants believe that claims 3 and 15 are patentable as written, claims 3 and 15 have been canceled. Such cancellation renders the rejection of them moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejections.

Rejection of Claims 3 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Block II. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Although Applicants believe that claims 3 and 15 are patentable as written, claims 3 and 15 have been canceled. Such cancellation renders the rejection of them moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejections.

Rejection of Claims 26-31 and 34-35 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 26-31 and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Block II in view of Block. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Examiner indicated that claim 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 26 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 32. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 26 should now be patentable and in condition for allowance. Claims 27-31 and 34-35 properly depend from claim 26 and therefore should be patentable and in condition for allowance as well.

New Claims 43-44

The Examiner indicated that claims 33, 36, and 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claim 43 incorporates the subject matter of claims 26 and 36. New claim 44 incorporates the subject matter of claims 37 and 41. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 43-44 should be patentable and in condition for allowance.

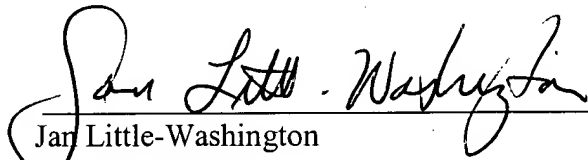
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all grounds for objection and rejection have been properly accommodated, traversed, or rendered moot, and that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 12/2/2003


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